(c) to (e) The quality aspect of food items, including details regarding expiry date come under the purview of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and Rules framed thereunder which are administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Revival of closed sugar milk

489. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills in different States of the country lying closed during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide assistance for the revival of these sugar factories; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to implement the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The State-wise number of closed sugar mills during the sugar season 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is given in the statement. (See below)

(b) and (c) It is the responsibility of the entrepreneur to take steps to reopen/revive the closed sugar mills. The sick sugar mills belonging to private and public sectors are covered under the provisions of the sick Industrial Companies (special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SiCA). Such sugar mills are required to make a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) whenever their accumulated losses become equal to or more that the net-worth. If the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR provide for any relief/concession from this Ministry, the same is considered as per the existing guidelines.

As regards the cooperative sugar mills a Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) to consider the proposals of the potentially viable sick sugar mills of this sector.

The S.D.F. Rules has been amended on 19.8.2002, so as to provide loans for cane development and modernization to potentially viable sick sugar mills.

Statement

State-wise closed Sugar Mills ***during the*** *last* ***3 Sugar Seasons***

State	2001-2002(P)	2002-2003(P)	2003-2004(P)
Punjab Haryana	1	1	1
Rajasthan Uttar	2	2	2
Pradesh	12	18.	19
Madhya Pradesh	4	5	5
Gujarat	7	5	7
Maharashtra	27	20	49
Bihar	18	18	18
Assam	3	3	3
Andhra Pradesh	5	7	14
Karnataka	6	8	13
Tamil Nadu	2	3	4
Kerala	1	1	2
Orissa	4	4	4
West Bengal	1	1	1
Nagaland		1	1
Pondicherry			1
Goa		-	-
ALL INDIA		97	144

(P)-Provisional

National Spot Exchange for Agriculture Produce

490. SHRI C RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Spot Exchange for Agriculture produce has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the number of States which have passed the legislation for Agriculture Produce Marketing Companies so far; and

(d) how the new exchange would address the concerns of the farmers?